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February 27, 2025

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 903 – Courts - Global Warming and Climate Change - Prohibited
Actions (Ratepayer Protection Act of 2025) - **Oppose**

The Office of the Attorney General writes to express our opposition to **House Bill 903**, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2025. This bill seeks to restrict the ability of the State and local governments to take necessary legal action against businesses that contribute to the adverse effects of global warming and climate change. OAG believe this limitation is both misguided and harmful to our communities.

Climate change is one of the most pressing threats we currently face, affecting not only our environment but also our health, economy, and overall quality of life. As the consequences of global warming become more pronounced, we must empower our State and local governments to hold businesses accountable for their contributions to these challenges. Enabling legal action against those who cause harm allows us to protect our citizens and makes clear that businesses have a responsibility to operate sustainably.

By prohibiting actions against businesses for the adverse effects of climate change, this bill effectively gives these entities a free pass to continue harmful practices without fear of repercussions. This is counterproductive to the progress that we, as a state, must strive for in addressing the climate crisis. Accountability is key to encouraging businesses to adopt cleaner, more sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and public health.

Additionally, the idea that the state should refrain from taking action on behalf of its residents when their well-being is at stake is fundamentally flawed. The government has a duty

to protect the interests of its citizens, which includes ensuring that businesses do not contribute to climate-related damages. Our communities deserve the safeguards that come from active and responsible government oversight.

Rather than restricting our State's ability to respond to these challenges, we should explore measures that promote partnership between the government and businesses—encouraging innovation and sustainable practices while still allowing legal recourse for those harmed by environmental negligence.

The Office of the Attorney General urges the Committee to oppose **House Bill 903**. We must prioritize the health and safety of Marylanders and empower our State to effectively combat the dire effects of global warming and climate change.

cc: The Honorable Delegate Jason C. Buckel
Members of the House Judiciary Committee